

IRS News Release

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More Taxpayers E-filing than Ever Before

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WASHINGTON — In the first release of tax filing statistics this year, the Internal Revenue Service announced today that electronically filed returns have increased, led by a big increase in home computer use.

Through early March, more than 39.5 million taxpayers have e-filed this year. Home computer use is up 16.5 percent, with e-file by tax professionals up nearly 4 percent.

Out of 54 million tax returns filed so far this year, e-file represents 73 percent of the total returns. By comparison, 72 percent of returns were filed electronically for the comparable period last year.

“The home computer is increasingly replacing the paper tax form,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. “Both individual taxpayers and tax professionals are turning to e-file more and more because it’s fast and accurate.”

Other new figures reflect that taxpayers are using other electronic options at record paces:

- Since January, the IRS web site had 70.4 million visits, up almost 6 percent from last year. Last week alone, the site had more than 7.2 million visits, up nearly 9 percent from last year.
- So far this year, 44.5 million individual income tax refunds have been directly deposited into bank accounts. These deposits represent about 76 percent of all tax refunds, up from 73 percent for the same period last year.
- So far this year, 629,251 credit card payments have been made by individual taxpayers, up 41 percent compared to 448,547 for the same period last year. These payments represent \$355 million, a 48 percent increase from \$240 million during the same period last year.

[The tax filing season statistics are on the following page.]

2006 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the weeks ending 3/04/05 and 3/03/06

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Individual Income Tax Returns			
Total Receipts	54,566,000	53,947,000	-1.1
Total Processed	50,153,000	48,957,000	-2.4
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	39,214,000	39,503,000	0.7
Tax Professionals	27,155,000	28,137,000	3.6
Self-prepared	9,756,000	11,366,000	16.5
Telefile	2,303,000	N/A	---
Web Usage:			
Unique visits to IRS.gov	66,468,998	70,435,197	6.0
Total Refunds:			
Number	44,931,000	44,544,000	- 0.9
Amount of principal	\$106.517 billion	\$110.465 billion	3.7
Average refund	\$2,371	\$2,480	4.6
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	32,721,000	33,887,000	3.6
Amount	\$86.969 billion	\$93.440 billion	7.4
Average	\$2,658	\$2,757	3.7